



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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DRAFT SACRAMENTO 2030 GENERAL PLAN, SACRAMENTO COUNTY

As a Responsible Agency under CEQA, we have reviewed and commented on the Draft Sacramento 2030 General Plan for the City of Sacramento (City), Sacramento County. The City is regulated by the Regional Water Board under Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R5-2002-0206, NPDES NO. CAS082597 for County of Sacramento and Cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Galt, and Sacramento Storm Water Discharges from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4), dated December 2002 (hereafter Sacramento MS4).

The 2002 Sacramento MS4 permit is being updated at the same time this General Plan is open for public comment. The updated Sacramento MS4 will be considered for adoption by the Regional Water Board on 31 July – 1 August, 2008. It is currently advertised as a Tentative Order and is available for public review on the Regional Water Board's web page at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/ Based on this pending decision, we have based our comments on the proposed Tentative Order. Nevertheless, the current 2002 Sacramento MS4 states:

“Provision C.24. General Plan Update: Each Permittee shall do the following:

- a. Evaluate and amend, revise, or update as necessary, its General Plan to include watershed and storm water quality and quantity management considerations and policies when any of the following General Plan elements are updated or amended: land use, housing, conservation, and open space.
- b. Provide the Regional Board with the draft amendment or revision when a listed General Plan element or the General Plan is noticed for comment in accordance with California Government Code §65350 *et seq.*”

We have reviewed the *Technical Background Report*, Chapter 6, Environmental Resources section. Based on our review, we have determined that the sections discussing 303(d) Listed Waterbodies and Storm Water are too general in nature and should be revised to include more detailed and updated program information. In this regard, we have provided general comments that will guide the CEQA writer to the most up-to-date information.

California Environmental Protection Agency

General Plan *Technical Background Report*

Comment 1: Chapter 6, page 6.2-5 and 6, Surface Water Quality. This section should be updated to reflect current 303(d) listed waterbodies in the Policy Area. We refer you to the Regional Water Board’s web address for the latest updates:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/tmdl/index.shtml

The following excerpt from the proposed Tentative Order states:

“Finding 88. The Regional Water Board considers storm water discharges from the Sacramento Urbanized Area to be significant sources of pollutants. The Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 303(d) Listed Waterbodies in the Sacramento Urbanized Area include the following. These impairments are based on identified exceedances of water quality standards.

Waterbody	Reach	Estimated Size Affected	Pollutant/Stressor(s)
Sacramento San Joaquin Delta		41,746 acres	Chlordane DDT Dieldrin Dioxin Compounds (including 2,3,7,8-TCDD) Exotic Species Furan Compounds Mercury Nickel PCBs (Polychlorinated biphenyls) PCBs (Polychlorinated biphenyls (dioxin-like)) Selenium
American River (Nimbus Dam to confluence with Sacramento River)	Lower	27 miles	Mercury
Arcade Creek		9.9 miles	Chlorpyrifos Diazinon Copper

Waterbody	Reach	Estimated Size Affected	Pollutant/Stressor(s)
Morrison Creek	Morrison Creek from Elk Grove-Florin Rd to Beach Lake	26 miles	Chlorpyrifos Diazinon
Elder Creek		11 miles	Chlorpyrifos Diazinon
Elk Grove Creek		6.9 miles	Chlorpyrifos Diazinon
Strong Ranch Slough		6.4 miles	Chlorpyrifos Diazinon
Chicken Ranch Slough		8 miles	Chlorpyrifos Diazinon
Natoma, Lake		485 acres	Mercury
Natomas East Main Drainage Canal	(aka Steelhead Creek, downstream of confluence with Arcade Creek)	3.5 miles	Diazinon PCBs (Polychlorinated biphenyls)
Natomas East Main Drainage Canal	(aka Steelhead Creek, upstream of confluence with Arcade Creek)	12 miles	PCBs (Polychlorinated biphenyls)
Sacramento River	Knights Landing to the Delta	16 miles	Mercury Diazinon Unknown Toxicity

Finding 90 also states: The Regional Water Board Toxic Hot Spots Clean-up Plan (California Water Code section 13394) identified the following hot spots that are applicable to this discharge:

- a. Mercury in the Delta; and
- b. Diazinon and Chlorpyrifos in Morrison Creek in the City of Sacramento.”

We recommend that this information be identified in the 2030 General Plan to the extent that it applies to the City of Sacramento’s Policy Area.

Comment 2: Chapter 6, page 6.2-15, Stormwater Quality/Urban Runoff Management. The following information from the proposed Tentative Order should be considered for inclusion into the 2030 General Plan:

“Provision D. 15. Water Quality Planning and Design Principles - In order to reduce pollutants and runoff flows from new development and redevelopment to the MEP (maximum extent practicable), each Permittee shall address the following concepts:

- a. Each Permittee shall incorporate water quality and watershed protection principles into planning procedures and policies or requirements to direct land-use decisions and require implementation of consistent water quality protection measures for priority development projects. These principles and policies shall be designed to protect natural water bodies and shall consider, at a minimum, the following:
 - i. Minimize the amount of impervious surfaces and directly connected impervious surfaces in areas of new development and redevelopment where feasible to maximize on-site infiltration of runoff (low impact design practices).
 - ii. Implement pollution prevention methods supplemented by pollutant source controls and treatment. Where practical, use strategies that control the sources of pollutants or constituents (i.e., the point where water initially meets the ground) to minimize the transport of urban runoff and pollutants offsite and into MS4s.
 - iii. Preserve, and where feasible, create or restore areas that provide important water quality benefits, such as riparian corridors, wetlands, and buffer zones (e.g., levees).
 - iv. Limit disturbances of natural water bodies and natural drainage systems caused by development including roads, highways, and bridges.
 - v. Require incorporation of structural and non-structural BMPs to mitigate the projected increases in pollutant loads from future development.
 - vi. Identify and avoid development in areas that are particularly susceptible to erosion and sediment loss; or establish development guidance that protects areas from erosion and sediment loss.
 - vii. Coordinate with local traffic management programs to reduce pollutants associated with vehicles and increased traffic resulting from development.
 - viii. Implement source and/or treatment controls to protect downstream receiving water quality from increased pollutant loads in runoff flows from new development and significant redevelopment.

- ix. Control the post-development peak storm water run-off discharge rates and velocities to prevent or reduce downstream erosion and to protect stream habitat (hydromodification concepts).

- b. **Low Impact Development Strategies:** Priority new development and redevelopment projects shall integrate Low Impact Development (LID) principles as feasible early in the project planning and design process. LID is a storm water management and land development strategy that emphasizes conservation and the use of existing natural site features integrated with engineered, small-scale hydrologic controls to more closely reflect predevelopment hydrologic functions in residential, commercial, and industrial settings. When developing the LID Program the Permittees shall consider and incorporate all appropriate and applicable LID components and measures that have been successfully and effectively implemented in other municipal areas. Other programs include, but are not limited to, USEPA's "Managing Wet Weather with Green Infrastructure, Action Strategy, 2008" and LID program elements specified in the permits or Storm Water Management Plans of other MS4s throughout the state.

The Stormwater Quality Design Manual for Sacramento and South Placer Regions (May 2007) currently promotes LID principles such as conservation and use of natural site features; site specific, lot scale source and treatment control measures that keep pollutants from contacting run-off and leaving the site; and run-off reduction control measures integrated into site design.

- i. In addition, Each Permittee shall amend, revise or adopt development standards (including policies, codes, ordinances and/or regulations) to require implementation of LID strategies at priority new development and redevelopment projects as feasible **no later than six months** after approval of the HMP by the Regional Water Board.
- c. **Hydromodification Management Plan (HMP)**

The Permittees shall submit a HMP Work Plan as part of their SQIPs (Storm Water Improvement Plan) for approval by the Regional Water Board. One year after Regional Board approval of the SQIP/HMP Work Plan, the HMP shall be submitted for approval. The Permittees shall amend their development standards to implement the HMP no later than six months after Regional Water Board approval of the HMP.

- i. The HMP shall require controls to manage the increases in the magnitude, volume and duration of runoff from development projects in order to protect receiving waters from increased potential for erosion and other adverse impacts. The HMP shall address, but not be limited to, the following:
 - (a) Requires incorporation of controls, including structural and non-structural BMPs, to mitigate the projected increases in flows;

- (a) Controls post-development runoff rates and velocities from a site to avoid adverse impact on downstream erosion, flooding and stream habitat;
 - (b) Minimizes the quantity of stormwater directed to impermeable surfaces and the MS4s (municipal storm drain);
 - (c) Maximizes the percentage of permeable surfaces to allow more percolation of stormwater into the ground where feasible; and
 - (d) Considers the full range of feasible BMPs in the *Stormwater Quality Design Manual*.
 - (f) Considers various assessment methodologies designed to evaluate the existing geomorphic condition of receiving waters, along with the expected susceptibility of these receiving waters to erosion/change as a result of hydromodification from land development and other land uses.
- ii. This requirement does not apply to new development and redevelopment projects where the project discharges stormwater runoff into creeks or storm drains where the potential for erosion, or other impacts to beneficial uses, is minimal. Such situations may include, but not limited to the following:
- (a) Discharges into creeks that are concrete-lined or significantly armored;
 - (b) Underground storm drain systems discharging directly to the rivers;
 - (c) Construction of infill projects in highly developed watersheds, where the potential for single-project and/or cumulative impacts is minimal; and
 - (d) Projects that do not create an increase in impervious surfaces over pre-project conditions.”

Furthermore, the proposed Tentative Order includes new language for the **General Plan Update** as follows:

“Provision D.16. General Plan Update

- a. Each Permittee’s General Plan or equivalent plan (e.g., Comprehensive, Master, or Community Plan) shall include water quality and watershed protection principles and policies applicable to land use decisions and require implementation of consistent water quality protection measures for development

- projects paying special attention to water quality protection from urban runoff and stormwater pollution.
- b. Each Permittee shall include principles and policies if the following are present in a Permittee's jurisdiction;
 - i. Sensitive water resources (e.g 303d-listed water bodies) in, or immediately downstream of, their jurisdiction;
 - ii. Existing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) or other such regulations pertaining to receiving waters within their jurisdiction;
 - iii. Major new development or significant redevelopment expected; and
 - iv. Major new infrastructure projects anticipated (e.g. roads, sewer, flood control, storm drains).
 - c. Each Permittee shall provide the Regional Water Board with the draft amendment or revision when a listed General Plan element or the General Plan is noticed for comment in accordance with California Government Code § 65350 et seq.
 - d. Each Permittee shall amend, revise, or update its General Plan to include watershed and storm water quality and quantity management considerations and policies when any of the following General Plan elements are updated or amended: (i) Land Use, (ii) Housing, (iii) Conservation, (iv) Open Space (v) Circulation and Infrastructure (i.e. transportation), (vi) Safety, and (vii) and Public Facilities.
 - e. Each Permittee shall review and modify the development goals and policies, open space goals and policies including preservation or integration with natural features, and when defined need for specific urban runoff and stormwater pollution protection policies are deficient. Each Permittee shall provide the Regional Water Board with the draft amendment or revision when a listed General Plan element or the General Plan is noticed for comment in accordance with California Government Code § 65350 *et seq.* **The Permittees shall also provide the Regional Water Board a written summary identifying how the draft amendment or revision complies with this Order.[emphasis added]**

Once the proposed Tentative Order for the Sacramento MS4 is adopted on 31 July – 1 August, it will be posted on the State Water Resource Control Board's web site under the Municipal Phase I permits at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/phase_i_municipal.shtml

We look forward to receiving the revised Draft Sacramento 2030 General Plan. If you have any questions, please contact me at 916.464.4606 or email address kschwab@waterboards.ca.gov.

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State Clearing House